

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gene L. Taylor on 9/21/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 18, line 1, delete "1", and insert - -16- -;

line 2, delete "the", and insert - -a- -.

3
In claim 20, line *4*; delete the term "etc". *J.S.*

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the process of making the hollow freestanding porous membrane including steps a)-c) as whole, is not disclosed or suggested in the prior art of record. The prior art teaches polymeric membranes filled with gold particles, see US 4,957,943, US 4,130342, the use of gold particles in membrane electrodes and catalysts is also known in the prior art of record. The method of using gold particles to form the large pore sized membranes, from which the gold has been extracted, in combination with the particular monomers as claimed in claim 1 as whole is not suggested or disclosed. The extraction of gold by iodine is known from US 4,557,759. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably